

From: Roger Cordes
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

As a shareholder of Microsoft corporation, I am conflicted in this anti-trust matter; however, I can not, in good conscience, allow my worries over stock prices to overshadow my sense of business ethics. Microsoft has proven, time and time again, that they will stoop to any business practice without regard to class, morality, or even law. They have stolen (if it were not for Apple Computer, Microsoft would have absolutely no product whatsoever), they have cheated (an online poll at ZDNet concerning consumer satisfaction with Microsoft products was shown to have skewed results, due to a suspiciously enormous number of votes coming in from Microsoft employees), and worst of all, they have boxed out the free market of the personal computer industry.

Article IV of the U.S. v. Microsoft: Court's Findings of Fact (<http://www.usdoj.gov/atr/cases/f3800/msjudgex.htm>), concerning cross-platform Middleware architectures and Microsoft's utter distaste for any such business practice, is of particular interest to me. Microsoft has proceeded to seek out any and all sources of cross-platform product, then "made them an offer they couldn't refuse." Microsoft warned middleware manufacturers that if they did not abandon their cross-platform ways, Microsoft would be forced to punish them. Microsoft showed great interest in becoming the only platform available; this is just the type of behavior we needed this anti-trust case for.

Microsoft has clouded the minds of countless millions who have been duped into thinking that there is no viable alternative to Windows. And in the current market, that may be the case. However, we the people, of the United States, have at our fingertips the opportunity to change this. Let us not miss this chance.

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